

REMARKS

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview on May 25, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner acknowledged that he did not consider that the present application claims priority in earlier-filed U.S. Prov. Pat. App. No. 60/227,856. The Examiner also acknowledged that he did not consider that the present application and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0019552 ("Tobin") are commonly assigned. The Examiner requested that the Applicant present these facts in an Office Action response.

Common Assignment

The present application and Tobin were both assigned to or subject to an obligation to assign to Sony Electronics Inc. and to Sony Corporation at the time the invention of the present application was made.

Rejections

Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 20-24

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of U.S. Pat. No. 5,926,798 ("Carter") and Tobin.

Applicant respectfully submits that Tobin is disqualified as prior art. First, the present application claims priority to Application No. 60/227,856 (filed August 23, 2000), which is earlier than the earliest priority date for Tobin (December 7, 2000). Second, Tobin is disqualified under 35 USC 103(c) because Tobin and the present application were commonly assigned at the time the present application was made.

Since the Examiner admits that Carter does not disclose each and every element of the rejected claims, and since Tobin is not prior art, claims 2-7, 9-13, and 20-24 are patentable over the combination of these two references.

SUMMARY

Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 20-24 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Eric Replogle at (408) 720-8300.

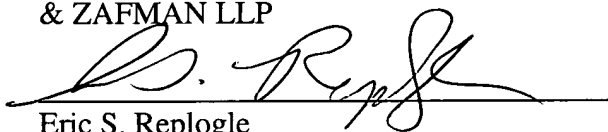
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension of time is required, then Applicant requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: July 5, 2005



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